

Remarks

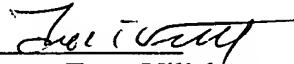
The specification has been amended to include a reference to the priority applications. Amendment to the specification has been made to page 3 to include a description of WO99/05281 deemed by the International Preliminary Examining Authority (EPO) to constitute the closest prior art.

Claims 7-14 are cancelled. Claims 15-20 are newly added.

The Abstract is amended to remove reference indicia in order to meet the requirements of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

No fee is believed to have been incurred by virtue of this amendment. However if a fee is incurred on the basis of this amendment, please charge such fee against deposit account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
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